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A Short History of Theravada Buddhism in Modern Nepal

By

Dr. Bhikkhu Amritananda



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Publisher's Note

Reminiscences of major events since the time of the expulsion of Theravada Buddhist monks from Nepal have been recorded in this volume. However, it is not the detailed historical account of Theravada Buddhism in Nepal. A few unhappy experiences of the Buddhist monks in the recent-past-have also been mentioned here. In spite of all these development, the Buddhists will be able to have in this volume an idea of the efforts being made to firmly establish the Theravada Buddhism in Nepal.

This is the twenty second volume of the publications of Ananda Kuti Vihara Trust and the third edition of A Short History of Theravada Buddhism in modern Nepal.

Bhikkhu Maitri

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Secretary

1st Nov. 1986

Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust

Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Sammasambuddhassa

A SHORT HISTORY OF THERAVADA BUDDHISM IN MODERN NEPAL

Introduction of Theravada Buddhism

In 1930 A. D. immediately after his ordination as a Samanera at Kusinara, India, Karmaseela Samanera arrived in Kathmandu, but left shortly for his study abroad.

It was a dream of mine to take to a wandering life. I often remembered something a lay Buddhist teacher told me when I was a child : "There are Buddhist monks only in wall paintings, no living ones are left on earth."

The first time I saw a Buddhist monk in my life was in the year 1935. That was at

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Kusinara, in India where the Buddha had attained Maha-Parinibbana. The following year, on August 2, 1936, I got my ordination at the same holy place, Kusinara, at the age of 18 and my Upajjhaya was the late Venerable U. Chandramani Maha Thera of Burma.

After my ordination, the Venerable U. Chandramani Maha Thera sent me to the late Venerable Mahapragya Thera, the first Nepalese Theravada Buddhist monk in the modern history of Nepal, who was then residing at Kalimpong in West Bengal, India.

The Venerable Mahapragya Thera, was first ordained in 1924 as a Buddhist monk by a Tibetan Lama, the Venerable Tshering Norbu, in Kathmandu. During the primeministership of Chadra Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, (1901-29 A. D.) the law of Nepal prohibited conversion from one religion to another. Since the Venerable Mahapragya was a Hindu who became a Buddhist, he was expelled from

the country along with four other persons, who, likewise had become Buddhist monks. After expulsion from Nepal, he went to Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. From there he made his way to India, and in 1928 he was ordained a Theravada Buddhist monk at Kusinara by the Venerable U. Chandramani Maha Thera. (Later on he disrobed).

In 1937 I went from Kalimpong in India to Bhojpur in eastern Nepal for the propagation of the Dhamma. As there was no motorable road I walked for two weeks and came to Bhojpur. Many Shakya families lived there; some of them were my own relatives. Before long, the Venerable Mahapragya Thera joined me at Bhojpur.

Following a religious function, the governor of Bhojpur came to know that the Venerable Mahapragya Thera had previously been expelled from Nepal. So, he was arrested. I was asked to go away from Bhojpur. But I said to the

governor : "I am a born Buddhist and I won't leave my teacher." Both of us were sent to jail.

After some months in the jail, I had a strange dream one night in which I saw five suns of different colours and then I slashed at a man's neck with a knife making him bleed profusely. When I spoke about the dream, the Venerable Mahapragya Thera said : "We may be released from the jail today."

Truly, the same day, at about 11 A. M., the jailor told us to go away and never to return to the country. Then two policemen escorted us to the Nepal-India border. This happened at the time when Juddha Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana was Prime Minister of Nepal.

In 1937 I left India for Burma to study Pali. There were two Nepalese Theravada monks at Moulmein, Lower Burma—the Venerable Shakyananda Maha Thera and Venerable Aniruddha Maha Thera. I went to them. The Chief monk of the monastery was the late

Venerable Agga Maha Pandita U. Cakkapala Maha Thera. After some months, I had to leave Burma for Sri Lanka because the food was not very agreeable for me.

On January 25, 1940, I got my Upasampada (higher ordination) in Sri Lanka. My Upajjhaya was the late Venerable Dhammarakkhita Vansalankara Sri Palene Vajiranana Mahanayaka Maha Thera of Vajiraramaya, Colombo.

Towards the end of 1942, I came to Kathmandu from Sri Lanka. At that time the late Venerable Dhammaloka Maha Thera and the late Sumangala Samanera were living at Kimdol Vihara in the vicinity of Kathmandu. Until my arrival in Kathmandu, there was no propagation of the Dhamma nor preaching in public by Bhikkhus.

Political troubles were brewing in Kathmandu. Four persons were given death sentence and many were sent to jail; gatherings of any

kind were prohibited. In such circumstances I preached the Dhamma in public every morning for a month at Swayambhu hill and at the end there was a night long chanting of Mahapari-trana. It was a great success; there were large gatherings and many people came to the Vihara and observed Panchaseela. Thus I carried my Dhammaduta mission until 1944.

I also published some books during this period—Triratna Vandana (Salutation to the Triple Gem), Pathya Sutra (Text for recitation), Dhammapada, Buddhajeevani (a short life story of the Buddha), Grihavinaya (rules for laymen), etc. All these books were later confiscated by the Rana government.

Some other Theravada monks also returned to Nepal from abroad after completing their study of the Dhamma. Among them was the Venerable Karmaseela Maha Thera, who had also been ordained by the Venerable U. Chandramani Maha Thera at Kusinara. As a

matter of fact, the Venerable Karmaseela Maha Thera was the first Theravada Buddhist monk in the modern history of Nepal to appear in the streets of Kathmandu immediately after his ordination. After a short stay in Kathmandu, he went to Burma, where, in 1932, he received the higher ordination from U. Chandimamala and was named Pragyananda.

Expulsion Again

In 1944, the Venerable Pragyananda Maha Thera tried to ordain a lady as a nun, but the then Prime Minister, Juddha Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana summoned all the eight monks living then in Kathmandu and told them not to preach the Dhamma. But the Bhikkhus would not agree to it. On July 30, 1944 (B. S. 2001) the Prime Minister ordered them to leave the country within three days.

I was at Sarnath in India at that time. All the monks from Nepal arrived at Sarnath and we formed a Buddhist Society of Nepal on

30th November 1944 called 'Dharmodaya Sabha' under the chairmanship of the Venerable U. Chandramani Maha Thera and I was elected as a Secretary at the same time. As the Secretary of the Sabha, I visited each and every Buddhist society in India and appealed to them to protest to the government of Nepal against the expulsion of the monks. I also wrote letters to influential people in Theravada Buddhist countries for their support to my campaign. After that I went to Sri Lanka.

Goodwill Mission from Sri Lanka

In April 1946 I was able to bring a goodwill mission from Sri Lanka. The head of the mission was the Most Venerable Narada Maha Thera of Vajiraramaya, Colombo. The mission was allowed to visit Nepal for pilgrimage but not to preach the Dhamma. Arriving at Kathmandu, however, I was able to get permission to preach at Ananda Kuti Vihara, Swayambhu, Kathmandu. Along with the delegation I also

met Padma Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, who had recently become the Prime Minister. At my request, the Prime Minister gave permission for one monk, the late Venerable Dhammaloka Maha Thera, to return to Nepal. When he arrived in Kathmandu, the Venerable Dhammaloka Maha Thera was so happy that he said to me : "Amritananda, you have re-kindled the light that had been extinguished". Gradually other monks also were able to return from exile.

The Most Venerable Narada Maha Thera paid a second visit to Kathmandu in April 1947 with the sacred relics of Lord Buddha and a sapling of the Sri Maha Bodhi Tree from Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.

Then in June 1948 the Most Venerable Narada Maha Thera paid a third visit to Kathmandu to inaugurate the newly made Sri Lanka Chaitya at Ananda Kuti Vihara. He also established an Uposathagara in the same

vihara. During his stay the then Prime Minister, Mohan Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, declared Vaisakh Purnima (May full-moon day) as a public holiday for the Buddhist civil servants of Kathmandu Valley in response to the Most Ven. Narada Maha Thera's request.

Some Noteworthy Events

In February 1951, along with the Venerable M. Pannaseeha Maha Thera of Sri Lanka, I had an audience with His Late Majesty the King, Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah Deva in the Royal Palace. In the course of the audience we recited the Paritta Sutra and tied the holy thread on the wrist of His Majesty the King. From that time until his death in 1955, I remained close to His Majesty King Tribhuvan and this relationship continued with His Majesty's successors, His Late Majesty King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva and the present King, His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva.

In the same year under the auspices of the Dharmodaya Sabha, a Relics Reception Committee was formed whose Chairman was His Late Majesty King Tribhuvan, we were able to bring the holy relics of Sariputra and Maha Maudgalyayana from the Maha Bodhi Society, Calcutta, India, to Kathmandu for an exhibition. It was indeed a great event. Thousands of people turned up every day for a fortnight to pay their respects to the holy relics at Ananda Kuti Vihara. On this occasion His Late Majesty the King gave Dana to the Bhikkhus in the Royal Palace.

Later on in 1951, on the auspicious occasion of His Late Majesty King Tribhuvan's Birthday there was chanting of Mahaparitrana in the Royal Palace. Since then, the King's Birthday is celebrated with the chanting of Mahaparitrana every year at Ananda Kuti Vihara.

The All-Nepal Bhikkhu Mahasangha was founded by me at Ananda Kuti Vihara in 1951.

In 1952 I established Ananda Kuti Vidya-peeth, a Buddhist Boarding High School.

On the Vaisakh Purnima of 1952 (B. S. 2008), His Late Majesty King Tribhuvan and his son, the then Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva, visited Ananda Kuti Vihara. On that occasion we recited the Paritta Sutra and tied the holy thread on the wrists of the Royal visitors. Later, at a large public meeting held at Bhuikhel, at the foot of Swayambhu hill, His Late Majesty King Tribhuvan proclaimed Vaisakha full-moon day as a public holiday throughout the kingdom.

In 1954, (B. S. 2010) on the Vaisakh Full-moon day His Late Majesty King Tribhuvan presided over a public meeting at Ananda Kuti Vihara.

In 1956, as President of Dharmodaya Sabha of Nepal, I had the honour of helping to organise the 4th general conference of the

World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB), the first to be held in Nepal, under the auspices of the Dharmodaya Sabha and patronage of His Late Majesty King Mahendra.

Later in 1956, His Late Majesty King Mahendra visited Lumbini, where the Buddha was born, and erected the Mahendra pillar. His Majesty also made the proclamation that no animal shall be slaughtered throughout the kingdom on Vaisakh Purnima.

On May 5th 1977 His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva visited Ananda Kuti Vihara for the first time for the celebration of the 2521st Buddha Jayanti or Buddha's Birthday.

The first Theravada monastery

Located in the wooded Swayambhu hill near Kathmandu, Ananda Kuti Vihara was the first Theravada monastery in Nepal. Established in 1943 by the late Venerable Dhamma-

loka Maha Thera, the Vihara consists of a Stupa and Uposathagara consecrated by the Most Venerable Narada Maha Thera of Sri Lanka in 1948, a shrine room, a preaching hall, three residential quarters and a dining hall.

In 1973 (B. S. 2029), I established the "Ananda Kuti Vihara Trust" with the objectives of maintaining the Vihara and the propagation of the Dhamma. Though its resources are limited, the Trust provides lodging and food for the resident Bhikkhus. The Trust also has already published 44 voluminous books based on Pali canon.

There are at present 13 Viharas in Kathmandu valley and 15 outside the valley. There are three Uposathagaras, one established in 1951 at Sri Sumangala Vihara, Lalitpur, by the Venerable Madihe Pannaseeha Mahanayaka Maha Thera of Sri Lanka, and one at Lumbini, established in 1974 by the Venerable Aniruddha Maha Thera of Nepal.

Nepal has now more than 60 Theravada monks, the eldest of them being the Venerable Sangha Maha Nayaka Pragyanaanda Maha Thera age 88 and Vassavasa 55. Next to him in order of seniority are the Venerable Shakyananda Maha Thera, the Venerable Aniruddha Maha Thera, myself and the Venerable Subodhananda Maha Thera. Eleven Nepalese monks are studying Pali in Thailand and thirty in Sri Lanka.

There are more than 70 Buddhist nuns in Nepal.

Buddhist Literature

Hundreds of books and pamphlets, written by different monks, have been published so far in Nepal.

The Ananda Kuti Vihara Trust has published a series of Books on Buddhism in Nepali language, some of them being my own translation from Pali texts. The Trust has thus fulfilled a great need, for until the publication of the

series there was not a single book in Nepali language, on Buddhism based on Pali sources.

For the last 14 years, the Ananda Kuti Vihara Trust has also been publishing "Ananda Bhumi", a Buddhist monthly magazine in Nepali and Newari languages and now there is another magazine named "Dharmakirti" published by Dharmakirti Study Group.

Buddhist Pariyatti classes are being run by the Venerable Buddhaghosha Maha Thera in Lalitpur. The Venerable Aswaghosha Thera has established a Bhikkhu Training Centre at Banepa in Kabhre district. The Dharmakirti Study Group also holds regular Dhamma classes in Kathmandu. Thus, the propagation of the Dhamma for the last 45 years by the Theravada monks, in general, has resulted in an all-round awakening among all Buddhist sections in Nepal.

Mention may be made here of some other remarkable events in the history of Theravada Buddhism in modern Nepal.

The senior most monk of Nepal at present is the Venerable Pragyananda Maha Thera, aged 88, who lives at Lalitpur. In 1982, Bhikkhus of Nepal made him the Sangha Nayaka. In a conference held at Ananda Kuti Vihara, December 3-7, 1984, he was made the Sangha Mahanayaka of Nepal and the honorary title of "Ariya Dhammarakkhita Nepala Buddha Sasana Vamsalankara Siri" was given to him. The same conference made the Venerable Shakyanda Maha Thera the Upa-Sangha Nayaka.

On the occasion of the Venerable Pragyanda's 86th birthday a few days before the Vaisakh Full-Moon day in 1984, a very grand celebration was held at Kirtipur Vihara, during which 86 persons were ordained as Samanera (novice) for a few days. It was a great event for the people of Kathmandu. In spite of his old age, the Venerable Pragyananda is still very active. He goes for alms and preaches the Dhamma. He has written more than 20 books

in Newari language and he has more than 15 disciples.

On August 7, 1984 all the three Nikayas of the Bhikkhu Maha Sangha of Sri Lanka—Shyama, Amarapura and Ramannya Nikaya—jointly honoured Bhikkhu Amritananda as the Mahanayaka for Nepal with the title of “Tripi-taka Visarada” in a function held at Paramadhammacetiya Pirivena, Colombo.

The All-Nepal Bhikkhu Mahasangha sent a letter of invitation on October 25, 1985 to the Venerable Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara Maha Thera, Rajaguru of Thailand, who is also the Upa-Sangha Raja, Member of Mahathera Samagom and Chief of the Bovornivesa Vihara, to visit Nepal for the celebration of his 72nd birthday. The Rajaguru accepted the invitation and arrived, accompanied by 12 monks and 73 lay followers, by a special plane on November 23, 1985 in Kathmandu, where he stayed at Ananda Kuti Vihara, the first Vihara built in

the history of Theravada Buddhism in modern Nepal and where the headquarters of the All-Nepal Bhikkhu Mahasangha is located.

A grand reception was held by the All-Nepal Bhikkhu Mahasangha at Ananda Kuti Vihara on the day of the Rajaguru's arrival. The same evening, he visited the Nagaramandapa Srikirti Vihara at Kirtipur and inaugurated, with the recitation of sutras in the tradition of the Thai Buddhist monks, the four symbolic holy places built within the premises of the Vihara, representing Lumbini, the birth-place of Lord Buddha; Buddha Gaya, where He attained Enlightenment; Sarnath, where He set the wheel of the Dhamma in motion; and Kusinara, where He attained Mahaparinibbana. These symbolic holy places had been built according to a desire of the Venerable Pragyananda Mahasthavir, the Sangha Mahanayaka of Nepal.

As desired by the Rajaguru, a programme of ordaining by himself 73 Shakya boys of

Nepal as Samanera for one week was initiated on November 24, 1985. Subsequent to the ordination for two evenings, the Rajaguru preached the Dhamma to the new Samaneras.

On November 26, the Rajaguru, along with his followers, visited Lumbini and stayed there as guests of the Lumbini Development Committee. Early in the following morning, he recited the Pratimokshya at the Uposathagara at Lumbini according to the tradition of the Theravada Buddhist monks. The Lumbini Development Committee took the distinguished guest and followers also to Kapilavastu. The night was spent at Lumbini.

On November 28, the Rajaguru returned to Kathmandu and stayed at Ananda Kuti Vihara. In the evening, he again preached to the newly-ordained Samaneras at Kirtipur.

The Rajaguru visited various ancient viharas in Kathmandu valley on November 29. At Shakyasinha Vihara in Lalitpur, the Raja-

guru was accorded a very warm welcome and presented with a letter of felicitation and some gifts. Various Buddhist organizations in Kathmandu city jointly welcomed him at Buddha Vihara at Bhrikuti Mandap. A reception was also held at Gana Maha Vihara.

On behalf of the Ananda Kuti Vihara Trust, a reception was held under the chairmanship of the Honourable Bada Guruju, Juna Nath Pandit, at the Ananda Kuti Vihara on the afternoon of November 29. A letter of felicitation was read by Bhikkhu Aswaghoshia Mahasthavir, President of the Ananda Kuti Vihara Trust, and the same was presented to the Rajaguru by the Honourable Bada Guruju.

A farewell function was also held at the same time by the All-Nepal Bhikkhu Maha Sangha and gifts were exchanged. Dr. Bhikkhu Amritananda Mahanayaka Mahasthavir, founder of Ananda Kuti Vihara Trust and Founder President of All-Nepal Bhikkhu Mahasangha,

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presented to the Rajaguru a set of his books based on the Tripitaka.

His Majesty the King of Nepal received the Rajaguru in audience at the Royal Palace on November 29. The same evening, the Rajaguru ordained 87 year old Nhuchhe Man Sahi as a Samanera with the name of Punnyavara.

On November 30, 1985, the Rajaguru returned to Thailand with his followers by a special plane.

Dhamma.Digital

Viharas in Kathmandu

1. Ananda Kuti Vihara : Bhikkhu Aniruddha
Swoyambhu Hill Mahathera, Head.
P. O. Box 3007 Dr. Bhikkhu Amri-
Kathmandu. tananda Maha
Tel : 224420 Nayaka Mahathera,
Deputy Head.
Bhikkhu Mahanama
Mahathera.
Bhikkhu Aswaghosha
Mahathera.
Bhikkhu Kumara
Kassapa Mahathera.
Bhikkhu Maitri.
Bhikkhu Subhadra.
Samanera Punnavara.
2. Srigha Vihara : Bhikkhu Gyanasa-
Nagha Tole gara Thera.
Kathmandu.

8. Nagara Mandap Sri Bhikkhu Sudarsana
Kirti Vihara : Thera, M. A.; Head.
Naya Bazar Samanera Anoma-
Kirtipur dassi, Samanera
Kathmandu. Mahapantha.
9. Pranidhipurna Vihara :
Balambu
Kathmandu.
10. Dharmachakra Asram :
Bagbazar
Kathmandu.
11. Gautambuddha Vihara :
Panga *Dhamma.Digital*
Kathmandu.
12. Dombu Vihara :
Dombu
Kathmandu.
13. Matatirtha Vihara :
Matatirtha
Kathmandu.

14. Sri Sumangala Vihara : Bhikkhu Buddha-
Lukusi Tole ghosha Mahathera,
Latitpur. Head.
Bhikkhu Rashtrapala
Bhikkhu Samyadjoti.
15. Shakyasinha Vihara : Sangha Maha Nayaka
Thaina Tole Pragyananda Maha-
Lalitpur. thera, Head.
Bhikkhu Dhamma-
pala.
Samanera
Tikkhindriya.
16. Manimandap Vihara : Bhikkhu Gyanapur-
Patako nika Thera. Head.
Lalitpur. Bhikkhu Silabhadra.
Bhikkhu Kaludayi.
17. Shanti Vihara :
Lakhatirtha
Lalitpur.



An image of the Buddha at Ananda Kuti Vihara.



Venerable U. Chandra Mani Mahathera of
Kusinara, India.



Late Venerable Dhammaloka Mahathera

Founder

Ananda Kuti Vihara.



Bhikkhu Amritananda known as Lal Kaji Shakya in Palpa Tansen, before he became a monk.



The late Venerable Mahapragya (standing) and Samanera Amritananda (sitting) in Bhojpur jail in 1937 A.D.



Prime Minister Juddha Shamsheer during
whose tenure Nepalese Buddhist
monks were sent into exile.



Prime Minister Padma Shamsheer who
permitted re-entry of the exiled monks.



The Venerable Piyadassi Mahathera, a member of the good-will delegation, riding in a palanquin in Kathmandu.



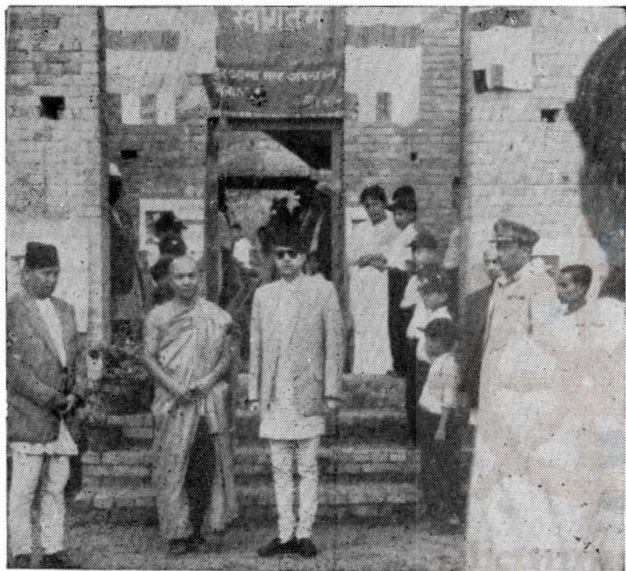
Members of a good-will delegation from Sri Lanka to Nepal in 1946. The most Venerable Narada Mahathera (sitting), The Venerable Piyadassi Mahathera (back left), Prof. Ratana Suriya, Prof. Ariyapala & Bhikkhu Amritananda.



A shrine room of Buddha at Ananda Kuti Vihara.



Bhikkhu Amritananda tying the sacred thread on the wrists of His Late Majesty King Tribhuvan and the then Crown Prince, H. R. H. Mahendra, on the morning of Vaishak full-moon day in 1952.



His late Majesty King Mahendra being escorted by Bhikkhu Amritananda to Ananda Kuti Vidyapeeth, the Buddhist Boarding High School in 1962.



The Venerable W. Pandit Nanaratana, the Venerable M. Pannasiha Mahanayaka Mahathera and the Venerable Bhikkhu Amritananda who came to Kathmandu from Sri Lanka in 1951.



His Late Majesty King Tribhuvan receiving the golden casket containing the relics of Sariputra and Maha Maudgalyayana brought from Calcutta at Tribhuvan Airport in October 1952.



His late Majesty King Tribhuvan gracing the historic public meeting at Bhuikhel, Kathmandu on the occasion of Vaishak full-moon day in 1952. Also seen with his late Majesty were Mr. Lok Darshan Bajracharya and Bhikkhu Amritananda.



His late Majesty King Tribhuvan, the chairman of the reception committee, delivering a welcome address on the arrival of the relics of Sariputra and Maha Maudgalyayana, the foremost disciples of the Buddha, from Calcutta in 1952.



His Late Majesty King Tribhuvan and Bhikkhu Amritananda seated in a specially decorated peacock-like vehicle which carried the golden casket containing the relics of Sariputra and Maha Maudgalyayana brought from Calcutta in 1952.



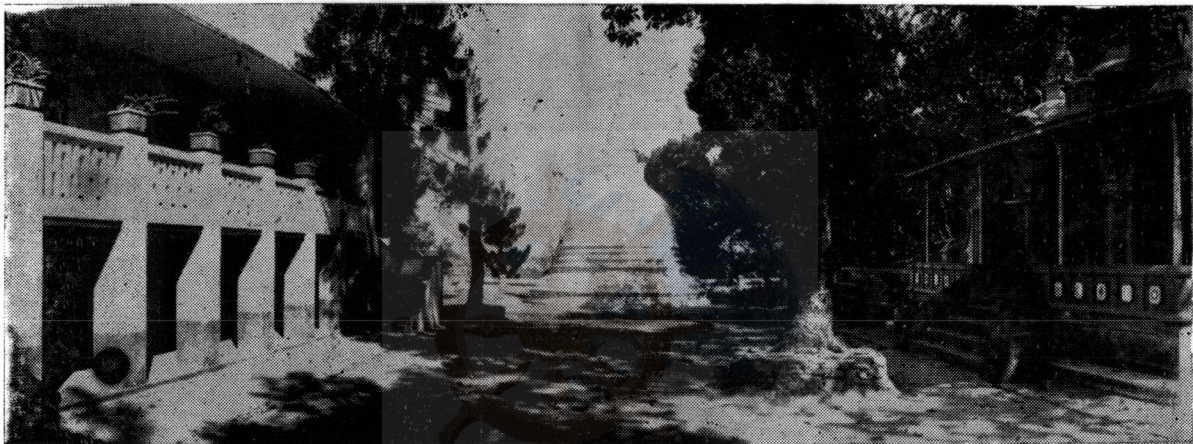
A scene of the inauguration of the "Sri Lanka Chaitya"
at Ananda Kuti Vihara in 1948 by the Most Venerable
Narada Mahathera of Sri Lanka.



His Majesty King Birendra being welcomed to Ananda Kuti Vihara by the girls of Anandakuti Girl's Boarding School in a traditional way on the occasion of 2521st Vaishak full-moon day celebration.



His Majesty King Birendra having a talk with Bhikkhu Amritananda in a specially decorated dais prepared for the celebration of the Buddha's 2521st Anniversary. The then Prime Minister Dr. Tulsigiri (standing left), was delivering a speech.



**A view of Ananda Kuti Vihara. Right to left : Monks' residential quarter,
Sri Lanka Stupa and Shrine room.**



His Majesty King Birendra paying homage to the relics of the Buddha at Ananda Kuti Vihara on the occasion of the 2521st Vaishak full-moon day celebration in 1977. Facing His Majesty the King is Bhikkhu Amritananda.



Uposathagara at Ananda Kuti Vihara.

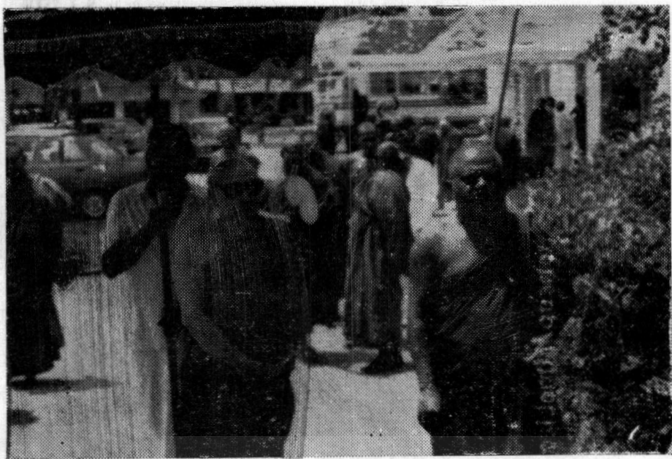
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A scene of the mass gathering to celebrate the Buddha's 2521st anniversary within the grounds of Ananda Kuti Vihara.



His Majesty King Birendra being warmly seen off by Bhikkhu Amritananda after the ceremony of the Buddha's 2521st anniversary at Ananda Kuti Vihara.



The procession of the monks led by Ven. Dr. M. Wipulasara Mahathera towards the ceremony hall where the "Maha Nayaka" title was offered to Ven. Dr. Amritananda Mahathera of Nepal in 1984.



The honourable title of "Tripitaka Visarada Sasana Jotaka" was offered to Venerable Bhikkhu Amritananda Mahathera by the Most Venerable P. Chandananda Maha Nayaka Thera, Asgiriya Chapter, Kandy, Sri Lanka in 1984.



The Most Venerable Ananda Maha Nayaka Thera, Malawatte Chapter, Kandy, Sri Lanka offering the casket containing the honourable title to Ven. Dr. Amritananda Mahathera of Nepal in 1984.



The annual whole night Paritta chanting ceremony on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the King's Happy Birthday.



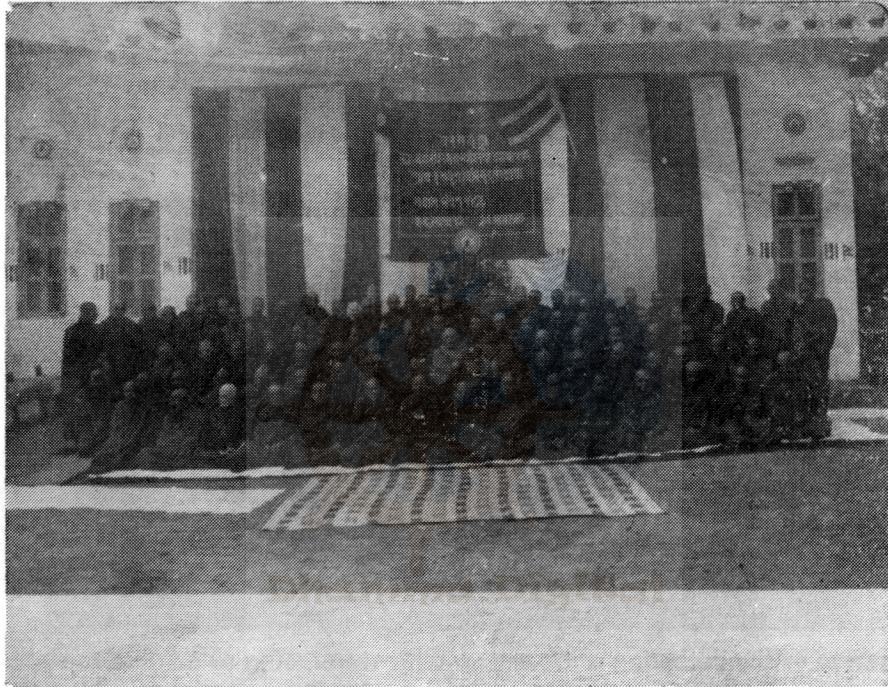
The scene of the newly ordained 86 Samaneras on the auspicious occasion of the Most Venerable Sangha Maha Nayaka Maha Thera's 86th Birthday ceremony in 1984.



His Holiness Rajaguru Somdet Phra Nyana Samvara
Maha Thera of Wat Bovoranivesa Vihara, Bangkok,
Thailand.



The scene of the gathering of Upasakas who were going to be ordained as Samaneras in memory of the holy occasion of 72nd Birthday ceremony of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyana Samvara Maha Thera, the Rajaguru of His Majesty the King of Thailand, at Kirtipur Vihara, Kathmandu in 1985.



A scene of the newly ordained Samaneras observing 10 precepts from His Holiness the Rajaguru Somdet Phra Nyana Samvara Maha Thera of Thailand at Kirtipur Vihara in 1985.



Honourable Bada Guruju Juna Nath Pandit presenting the casket of felicitation to the Most Venerable Rajaguru Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara Mahathera of Thailand on behalf of the Ananda Kuti Vihara Trust in 1985 at Ananda Kuti Vihara, Kathmandu.



The Venerable Amritananda Maha Nayaka Mahathera working at his table at Ananda Kuti Vihara, Kathmandu.



An audience of the Most Venerable Rajaguru of Thailand with His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal in 1985, at the Royal Palace.



His Majesty the King of Nepal paying homage to the relics of the Lord Buddha on the occasion of the 2530th Buddha Jayanti celebration in 1986 at Ananda Kuti Vihara, Kathmandu. Her Majesty the Queen is standing behind.



Venerable Dr. Amritananda Maha Nayaka Mahathera with the symbolic fan of the honourable title of "Maha Nayaka".

KINDLY HELP AND CONTRIBUTE
GENEROUSLY
to the
ANANDA KUTI VIHARA TRUST FUND

Its objectives are :

1. To provide lodging and fooding to the resident Bhikkhus at Ananda Kuti Vihara.
2. To perpetuate the 'Buddha Sasana' in Nepal and publish Buddhist literature.

ANANDA KUTI VIHARA TRUST

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